THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) As per the World Development Indicators, the proportion of people earning less than one dollar a day in India declined from 42.3 percent in 1993-94 to 34.7 percent in 1999-2000.

(b) As per the official estimates, the proportion of people living below the poverty line declined from 36 percent in 1993-94 to 26.1 percent in 1999-2000.

Reduction in assistance to States

†3809. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission is going to effect massive cut in the financial assistance to be provided to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the development of State and progress of schemes/projects would be affected thereby;

(d) whether the Planning Commission have conducted any study in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) and (b) On a like-to-like basis, Central Assistance for the Annual Plan of States has increased from Rs. 53,388.92 crore in 2004-05 to Rs.60,281.61 crores in 2005-06.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (e) As recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission, with effect from 2005-06, the Central Government will not, as a general rule, be an intermediary in raising loans and on-lending them to the States for Plan financing. The State Government will be enabled to raise the plan loans directly based on authorization given by the Central Government.

Bringing down of Poverty Ratio

†3810. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several effective programmes are being

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

implemented in the country to bring down the poverty ratio during the Tenth Five Year Plan by the year 2007; and

(b) if so, target set to bring down the poverty ratio during the Tenth Plan and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that serveral effective programmes are being implemented in the country to bring down the poverty ratio during the Tenth Five Year Plan by the year 2007.

The programmes which are being implemented in the rural areas by Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL families are (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swaranjayati Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and (iv) National Food for Works Programme (NFFWP).

The programme which is being implemented in the urban areas for poverty alleviation is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY). The programme targets the urban poor, defined as those living Below the Poverty Line, as defined from time to time. The Programme is applicable to all urban towns in India. The Programme is implemented on a whole town basis with special emphasis on urban poor clusters. In addition to this, the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), and National Slum Development Programmes (NSDP) which are meant for providing shelter/ upgradation of shelter and environmental upgradation for the urban slum dwellers, also contribute indirectly toward poverty alleviation.

In addition, under the new scheme of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) each poor family is entitled to 35 kgs of foodgrains. In order to make the TPDS more focused and targeted towards the very poor category, the "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" provides 35 kgs of foodgrains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. In the recent budget presented on 28-02-05 it was announced that the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be increased from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005.

(b) The Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07) for the first time has set a target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012.